

Appl. No. 10/716,506
Amendment dated: February 17, 2007
Reply to OA of: August 17, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1(currently amended). A composition for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of atopic disease, non-atopic eczema and psoriasis, which comprises a decoction or extract obtained from ~~a subset of the set of~~ the following herbs ~~consisting of~~:

~~Radix Ledebouriella~~
~~Fructus Tribuli~~
~~Herba Potentilla Chinensis~~
~~Caulis Clematis Armandii~~
~~Radix Rehmannia~~
~~Radix Glycyrrhiza~~
~~Radix Paeonia Rubra~~
~~Cortex Dictamni Radicis~~
~~Herba Lopatheri~~
~~Spika Schizonepetae~~

in the substantial absence of any other herb;

said decoction or extract comprising one or more of those components present in fractions which run with Rf values in the ranges:

0.00 to 0.100;
0.167 to 0.300;
0.400 to 0.533;

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0.700 to 0.833; or
0.900 to 0.967

if an aqueous solution of a freeze-dried decoction of said set of herbs is subjected to chromatography on a Whatman 2cm x 55cm 3MM cellulose strip for 10 hours using a solvent mixture of butanol, ethanol and water in the proportions 4:1:1.

2(original). A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoction or extract comprises one or more of those components present in fractions which run with Rf values in the range 0.00 to 0.100 under the said chromatography.

3(original). A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoction or extract comprises one or more of those components running with Rf values in the ranges 0.00 to 0.100, 0.167 to 0.300, 0.400 to 0.533, 0.700 to 0.833 or 0.900 to 0.967 which is capable of being extracted with water from said chromatography strip.

4(original). A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoction or extract comprises one or more of those components running with Rf values in the ranges 0.700 to 0.833 or 0.900 to 0.967 which is capable of being extracted with methanol from said chromatography strip.

Claims 5-8(canceled).

9(original). A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoction or extract is prepared by a process including removing those components extractable with hexane or other non-polar solvent.

10(original). A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoction or extract is prepared by a process including an initial water extraction.

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11(original). A composition as claimed in claim 1, suitable for the treatment of atopic or non-atopic eczema.

12(original). A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said decoction or extract is present in an amount which causes a percentage inhibition of interleukin 4 (IL4) induced CD23 expression of at least 25% in peripheral blood monocytes.

13(original). A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of atopic disease, non-atopic eczema and psoriasis comprising a treatment-effective amount of the composition of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

14(original). A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 13, which is formulated for oral, parenteral or topical administration.

15(currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of atopic disease, non-atopic eczema and psoriasis, which consists essentially of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent and a treatment-effective amount of a decoction or extract obtained from one, or from a mixture of more than one, of the herbs:

~~Cortex Dictamni Radicis~~
~~Radix Paeonia Rubra~~
~~Radix Rehmannia~~
~~Spika Schizonepetae~~
~~Radix Glycyrrhiza~~

in the substantial absence of any other herb.

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16(original). A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 16 formulated for oral, parenteral or topical administration.

Claims 17-20(canceled).